

take dead animal matter. It is also occasionally found in the train of caterpillars feeding on leaves. It makes large excavations underground, generally having the entrance round the trunk of a tree, and it forms considerable heaps of fine earth round the mouth of the nest. It runs, unlike the last species, with its abdomen turned downwards under the abdominal pedicles. It appears to form the type of a very distinct group from the last.

22. *Myrmica? tarda*, Jerdon (p. 115).

Worker, length  $\frac{1}{6}$ th of an inch; head somewhat triangular, square behind, of same width as thorax; eyes rather small, quite lateral, somewhat posterior; antennæ short, thick, inserted near the mouth; thorax short, square, ending in two spines on each side, it and the head rough and shagreened; abdominal pedicles much raised, long, narrow; abdomen triangular, also shagreened; head, thorax, legs and abdominal pedicles brick-red; abdomen dusky, dark blue. This is a very curious-looking ant. It lives in holes in the ground in small societies, and feeds on vegetable secretions. It moves very slowly. It is found both in the Carnatic and Malabar.

23. *Myrmica? cæca*, Jerdon (p. 116).

Worker, length  $\frac{1}{2}$ th of an inch; head somewhat oval, rather small; no eyes; antennæ short, thick, inserted near the mouth; an oblique groove on each side of forehead for the insertion of the antennæ; jaws triangular, hooked at the tip, and finely serrated; thorax narrow, of uniform width, granulose, with an elevation posteriorly ending in two small spines; abdominal pedicles raised, rounded, pointed backwards, the first the highest; abdomen long, oval; head, thorax and legs reddish brown; abdomen glossy brown.

I found this curious ant only once, under a stone in the Wynaad.

[To be continued.]

### BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

*The Palm Trees of the Amazon and their Uses.* By A. R. WALLACE.  
With 48 Plates. London: Van Voorst, 1853.

WE beg most strongly to recommend this book, as one that will not interest the botanist alone, but give pleasure to unbotanical readers.

It must be looked upon as a highly valuable companion to the great work on Palms by Martius, supplying to us a very clear idea of the general appearance of the palm-trees. Being the work of a professed and excellent naturalist, it is quite trustworthy even in the

smallest details. The book contains full-length portraits of forty-three species, accompanied in several cases with an enlarged figure of some of their parts. These portraits are especially interesting to Europeans, from our having no native trees of this graceful group; the only palm of our quarter of the world being the *Chamærops humilis*, which inhabits Sicily.

In the introduction Mr. Wallace has given a most curious account of the almost endless uses to which palms are applied by the inhabitants of tropical countries. It is probable that very few of his readers will have had any approach to an adequate conception of their value, not only to those who live amongst the palm-trees themselves, but also to us and other nations of the temperate regions of the earth.

We should like to transfer some part of this introduction to our pages, but find that it must be the whole or none. We choose the latter alternative, in the confident hope that very many of our readers will see it in the book itself.

*The Botanist's Word-Book: an Etymological and Explanatory Vocabulary of the Terms employed in the Science of Botany.* By G. MACDONALD and J. ALLAN. London: Reeve & Co., 1853.

We are sorry that it is not in our power to recommend this little book, for there are internal proofs of its having been compiled by persons unacquainted with botany. It is full of blunders, and even if correct, it would have been found to be far too meagre to be of use to botanical students. For instance: "Acina. The small granules which make up a bramble or mulberry." Of course we need scarcely add that it means neither, and that they are not of similar structure. "Adnate. Applied to stipulæ growing close to the stem." To take another part of the book: "Nodose. Knotty. A term applied to a particular form of pubescence." "Pappus. A particular kind of seed." But we have said enough, and are sorry that Messrs. Reeve should have been persuaded to publish such a book.

*A Narrative of Travels on the Amazon and Rio Negro, with an Account of the Native Tribes and Observations on the Climate, Geology, and Natural History of the Amazon Valley.* By A. R. WALLACE. Pp. 541. 8vo. London, 1853. Reeve & Co.

This book has interested us greatly, and we advise our readers to peruse it. The travels of a good naturalist in such a region as that of the Amazon could scarcely be related without forming a most agreeable work. That is pre-eminently the case in the instance before us, in which the author has so happily blended the account of his journey with the scientific observations, as to produce a narrative, which no reader, even only slightly or not at all acquainted with natural science, will read without pleasure.

During a residence of four years in the valley of the Amazon, Mr. Wallace visited most of the interesting places upon the banks of the lower half of that great river, and also throughout nearly the whole extent of the Rio Negro. Perhaps the most interesting part